

Dear California Board of Education,

Earlier this month, I read with interest that the California State Board of Education had decided to include discussion of the matter of so-called Korean “comfort women” in the context of Japan’s actions during World War II in the state’s 10<sup>th</sup> grade world history textbook.

I was disappointed, however, that the textbook did not reference women like my mother who were the victims of systemic sexual assault by South Korean soldiers during the Vietnam War.

The Government of South Korea has spent decades denying that women like my mother exist. Forty years ago, two different Korean soldiers raped my mother – who had three children, including me, from her assaults. Experts estimate that thousands of women like my mother were sexually assaulted during the war and then left behind to be forgotten by history.

My life has been very difficult as a Lai Dai Han (child of mixed Korean-Vietnamese heritage), but I have overcome a lot to be successful. And, I have dedicated my life to helping women like my mother and children like me to build a better life. I am proud that my club in Ho Chi Minh City has provided scholarships for hundreds of children and homes for women who need them.

Last year, I joined with an American organization called Voices of Vietnam (<http://www.vietnamvoices.org>) to raise greater awareness of the plight of women like my mother. We were very successful in raising awareness about what South Korean soldiers did to Vietnamese women, but we have much further to go to make sure women like my mom get the justice they deserve.

I respectfully request that the California State Board of Education include reference to the horrific crimes done by South Korean soldiers in Vietnam in

their textbooks as well. This would go a long way to making sure the world knows about what happened.

Most Sincerely,

Tran Van Ty  
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.